

In the specification:

Page 1, cancel lines 1-5 and substitute therefor:

#### CROSS-REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATION

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in German Patent Application DE 10 2004 023 998.3 filed on May 14, 2004. This German Patent Application provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a device for optical distance measurement, in particular a handheld device for optical distance measurement.

Page 3, cancel lines 9-21 and substitute therefor:

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The device of the invention for optical distance measurement has an emission branch, with at least one emission unit, for emitting modulating, optical measurement radiation in the direction of a target

object. The device of the invention for optical distance measurement furthermore has a reception branch with at least one receiver as well as a reference branch that defines a reference path. The modulated, optical measurement radiation can be switched over between the emission branch and the reference branch by switch means, in order to perform a distance measurement or calibration measurement selectively. Advantageously, the switch means for deflecting the measurement radiation between the reception branch and the reference branch is operated purely mechanically. In this way, a simple, reliable, and above all electrically economical way of generating an internal reference path can be achieved.

Page 5, cancel line 9.

Page 5, cancel line 18 and substitute therefor:

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, before line 1, insert:

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS